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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,379	08/20/2003	Joshua Koppelman	T00008C3	6138
7590	11/29/2004		EXAMINER	
HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP Westech Center Suite 3150 8911 North Capital of Texas Highway Austin, TX 78759			MEINECKE DIAZ, SUSANNA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	
			DATE MAILED: 11/29/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,379	KOPPELMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Susanna M. Diaz	Art Unit 3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/20/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 1 is presented for examination

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two-prong test of:

- (1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and

(2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea, law of nature, natural phenomena) that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the “progress of science and the useful arts” (i.e., the physical sciences as opposed to social sciences, for example) and therefore are found to be non-statutory subject matter. For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts.

As to technological arts recited in the preamble, mere recitation in the preamble (i.e., intended or field of use) or mere implication of employing a machine or article of manufacture to perform some or all of the recited steps does not confer statutory subject matter to an otherwise abstract idea unless there is positive recitation in the claim as a whole to breathe life and meaning into the preamble.

In the present case, claim 1 produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result; however, recitation of a computer system is limited to the preamble. Therefore, claim 1 is deemed to be non-statutory for failure to sufficiently incorporate the technological arts. In order to overcome this rejection, it is respectfully suggested that claim 1 be amended to expressly recite that the computer performs one of the core steps (e.g., a calculation or determination step).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SC Commission, as disclosed in the following references:

“SC Commission” [Retrieved from the Internet,

<http://web.archive.org/web/1997062419305...www.trilogy.com/modules/sccommission> on February 4, 2002. The snapshot of this web page was downloaded to web.archive.org on June 24, 1997; however, the page information states that the “SC Commission” web page was last modified on March 12, 1997.]

“Selling Chain” [Retrieved from the Internet,

<http://web.archive.org/web/19970624190842/www.trilogy.com/products1> on February 4, 2002. The snapshot of this web page was downloaded to web.archive.org on June 24, 1997; however, the page information states that the “Selling Chain” web page was last modified on March 6, 1997.]

SC Commission discloses a method for determining commissions using a computer system comprising:

[Claim 1] obtaining one or more transactions (“SC Commission”: ¶¶ 5-8);
obtaining one or more quotas that specify one or more levels (“SC Commission”: ¶¶ 5-14);

obtaining one or more promotions that specify a reward for one or more of said levels ("SC Commission": ¶¶ 5-14);

calculating a performance of a recipient based on said transactions ("SC Commission": ¶¶ 5-14);

determining if said recipient's performance qualifies for said promotion ("SC Commission": ¶¶ 5-14); and

determining compensation for said recipient using said promotion if said recipient's performance qualifies ("SC Commission": ¶¶ 5-14).

8. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based upon a public use or sale of the invention.

As explained in the art rejection above, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SC Commission, as disclosed in the following references:

"SC Commission" [Retrieved from the Internet, <http://web.archive.org/web/1997062419305...www.trilogy.com/modules/sccommission> on February 4, 2002. The snapshot of this web page was downloaded to web.archive.org on June 24, 1997; however, the page information states that the "SC Commission" web page was last modified on March 12, 1997.]

"Selling Chain" [Retrieved from the Internet, <http://web.archive.org/web/19970624190842/www.trilogy.com/products1> on February 4, 2002. The snapshot of this web page was downloaded to web.archive.org on June 24,

1997; however, the page information states that the "Selling Chain" web page was last modified on March 6, 1997.]

SC Commission appears to be Trilogy's product. Trilogy is the assignee of the instant application, thereby raising an issue of public use and/or sale of the invention.

Double Patenting

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. Claim 1 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-66 of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,164. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the functionality recited in claim 1 of the instant application is recited in each of claims 1-66 of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,164. While claims 1-66 of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,164 recite additional functionality, deletion of an element with a corresponding loss of functionality is deemed to be obvious (*In re Karlson*, 136 USPQ 184, 186; 311 F2d 581 (CCPA 1963)). Therefore, claim 1 of the instant application is

deemed to be an obvious variant of and is therefore unpatentable over claims 1-66 of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,164.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (703) 305-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susanna Diaz
Susanna M. Diaz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623
November 24, 2004